



FloorPrep

Legislative Digest

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

J.C. Watts, Jr.
Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour and
2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business
(No Votes Before 6:00 p.m.)*

Anticipated Floor Action:

**H.R. 1451—Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Act (Considering
Senate Amendments)**

S. 632—Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness Act

H.Res.____—Honoring Former Speaker Carl Albert

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Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

Floor Situation: The House will consider the following two bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

H.R. 1451—Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Act, as amended by the Senate, establishes a 15-member commission to research and recommend appropriate activities to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth in 2009. The measure requires the committee to study such activities as (1) minting a Lincoln bicentennial penny; (2) issuing a bicentennial postage stamp; (3) celebrating his life through formal events at the Lincoln Memorial; (4) convening a joint session of Congress for appropriate ceremonies; and (5) acquiring and preserving Lincoln artifacts. The commission must report its recommendations to Congress within four years. The Senate amendments to H.R. 1451 make minor changes regarding the commission's composition. CBO estimates that enactment will cost the federal government between \$1 million and \$1.5 million over FYs 2000-2004. The House originally passed H.R. 1451 under suspension of the rules by a vote of 411-2 on October 4, 1999. The bill was further amended in the Senate and by unanimous consent on November 19, 1999.

S. 632—Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness Act authorizes \$28 million annually over the next five fiscal years to (1) provide a stable source of funding for poison centers; (2) establish a national toll-free poison control hotline; and (3) improve public education and services. In order to ensure that these funds supplement, not supplant, other funding that the centers receive, the bill authorizes the

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary to impose a matching requirement with respect to amounts provided under a grant if the secretary deems it appropriate. In order to receive federal funding, a poison center must be certified by the HHS Secretary or an organization expert in the field of poison control designated by the secretary. CBO estimates that enactment will result in additional discretionary spending of \$5 million in FY 2000 and \$112 million over the FYs 2000-2004 period. The House Commerce Committee did not consider the bill.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXIX, #2, February 4, 2000.

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H.Res.____—Honoring Former Speaker Carl Albert

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.Res.____ after it completes consideration of the scheduled suspensions. The resolution is expected to be introduced as a privileged matter; it is debatable for one hour.

Summary: H.Res.____ expresses Congress's profound sorrow over the death of Carl B. Albert, a 30-year representative of the 3rd District in Oklahoma and former Speaker of the House. Albert died on February 4 at the McAlester Regional Health Center; he was 91-years-old. The resolution will be introduced by Mr. Watkins.

The eldest son of Earnest and Leona Albert, the "Little Giant From Little Dixie" was raised in Bug Tussle, a rural community northeast of McAlester, Oklahoma. At McAlester High School, he was renowned for his extraordinary oratorical ability and won several speech contests that enabled him to travel to Europe and Hawaii. In 1931, he graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Oklahoma, where he further developed his rhetorical gifts. Albert won a Rhodes scholarship to Oxford University, where he studied for three years and earned two law degrees. He took a position with the Federal Housing Administration before practicing law. Albert joined the U.S. Army in 1941 and, during World War II, saw action in New Guinea, the Philippines, Okinawa, Hiroshima, and Tokyo. After the war ended, Albert returned to Oklahoma. In 1946, he was elected to the state's 3rd District. Throughout his 15 terms in the House, Albert occupied a number of leadership posts: the majority whip, in 1954; majority leader, in 1962; and, between 1971 and 1977, Speaker of the House.

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